

A

▪	a	very short little insignificant English word
	eh	an interrogative utterance
▪	acts	things done
	ax	chopping tool
▪	ad	short for advertisement
	add	short for addition
■	adds	performs additions
	ads	more than one advertisement
	adze	axe-like tool
▪	ade	fruit beverage
	aid	to assist
	aide	an assistant
▪	aerie	eagle's nest
	airy	breezy
▪	aero	of aircraft
	arrow	slender, pointed shaft
▪	affect	to change
	effect	result
▪	ail	sick
	ale	beer
▪	air	stuff we breathe
	are	1/100th of a hectare
	e'er	contraction of "ever"
	ere	eventually
	err	to make a mistake

heir	one who will inherit
▪ aisle	walkway
I'll	contraction of "I will"
isle	island
▪ all	everything
awl	pointed scribe
▪ allowed	permitted
aloud	spoken
▪ altar	raised center of worship
alter	to change
▪ an	a single instance
Ann	a woman's name
▪ ant	insect
aunt	parent's sister
▪ ante	preliminary bet
auntie	sister of a parent
▪ arc	portion of a circle
ark	vessel
▪ ascent	the climb
assent	to agree
▪ ate	past tense of eat
eight	the number base of octal
▪ auger	a drill
augur	foretell
▪ aught	anything
ought	should
▪ aural	of hearing

oral	of the mouth
▪ auricle	external part of the ear
oracle	seer
▪ away	distant
aweigh	just clear of the bottom
▪ awed	in a state of wonder
odd	not usual
▪ aweful	filled with awe
awful	really bad
offal	butchered entrails
▪ aye	naval affirmative
eye	ocular organ
I	oneself

B

▪ bail	bucket handle
bale	bundle of hay
▪ bailed	pumping water out of a boat
baled	to gather into a bale
▪ bailee	a person to whom goods are committed for custody or repair
bailey	the outer wall of a castle
bailie	a municipal officer in Scotland
▪ bailer	one who bails (water)
bailor	a person that entrusts goods to a bailee
baler	one who bales (hay)

- **bailing** pumping water out of a boat
- baling** wire used to tie bales
- **bait** to torment
- bate** to lessen
- **baited** past tense of bait
- bated** past tense of bate
- **baiting** tormenting
- bating** lessening
- **baize** green felt
- bays** one or more enclosed arms of the ocean
- beys** one or more Turkish officials

- **bald** hairless
- balled** carnal knowledge
- bawled** cried aloud

- **ball** playful orb
- bawl** to cry

- **band** a group
- banned** forbidden

- **bard** a poet
- barred** enclosed by poles

- **bare** naked
- bear** wild ursine

- **bark** outer sheath of a tree
- barque** square-rigged sailing ship

- **baron** minor royalty
- barren** unable to bear children

▪ Barry	a man's name
berry	small fruit
bury	to take under
▪ basal	forming the base
basil	an herb
▪ base	the bottom support for anything
bass	the lowest musical pitch or range
▪ based	supported
baste	to swab with liquid during cooking
▪ bases	what baseball players like to steal
basis	principal constituent of anything
basses	many four-stringed guitars
▪ bask	to warm oneself pleasantly
basque	tightfitting bodice or tunic (or, people of the Pyrenees)
▪ bat	a blind, flying rodent
batt	a flat pad
▪ baud	bits per second
bawd	brothel manager
▪ bay	an enclosed arm of the ocean
bey	a Turkish official
▪ be	to exist
bee	pollinating buzzer
▪ beach	where i want to be
beech	a type of tree
▪ bean	a legume
been	past tense of be
▪ beat	to hit
beet	edible red root

▪ beau	male friend
bow	a curve or bend; double-slipped reef knot
▪ beaut	slang for beauty, beautiful
butte	steep sided hill
▪ been	past tense of be
bin	a box or container
▪ beer	universally brewed comfort food
bier	a temporary frame for a coffin
▪ bel	indian thorn tree
Bel	Babylonian god
bell	ding ding
belle	beautiful woman
▪ berth	anchorage
birth	your method of arrival
▪ besot	to get drunk
besought	past tense of beseech
▪ better	superior
bettor	one who bets
▪ bight	middle of a rope
bite	a mouthful
byte	eight bits
▪ billed	has a bill
build	to construct
▪ bit	past tense of bite
bitt	large cleat for tying up ships
▪ blew	past tense of blow
blue	color of California sky
▪ bloc	an alliance

block	square object
▪ boar	wild pig
Boer	a South African of Dutch descent
boor	tasteless buffoon
bore	not interesting
▪ board	a plank
bored	not interested
▪ boarder	lodger who gets meals, too
border	perimeter
▪ bode	an omen
bowed	curved
▪ bold	brave
bowled	knocked over
▪ bolder	more courageous
boulder	large rock
▪ bole	trunk
boll	round seed pod
bowl	dish
▪ boos	disparaging sounds from fans
booze	whiskey
▪ born	brought into life
borne	past participle of bear
ourn	a small stream or boundary
▪ borough	township
burrow	dig into the ground
▪ bough	tree branch

bow	front of a ship; respectful bend
▪ bouy	navigational aid
boy	male child
▪ bra	brassiere
braw	well-groomed
▪ braid	a weave of three strands
brayed	a donkey cried
▪ braise	cook with oil and water
brays	loud, harsh cry
▪ brake	stopping device
break	to split apart
▪ breach	to break through
breech	the back part
▪ bread	a loaf
bred	past tense of breed
▪ brewed	fermented
brood	family
▪ brews	more than one beer
bruise	a contusion
▪ bridal	pertaining to brides
bridle	horse's headgear
▪ broach	to raise a subject
brooch	an ornament fastened to clothes
▪ brows	multiple foreheads
browse	grazing
▪ bundt	type of cake
bunt	hit a pitch without swinging

- **burger** meat sandwich
- burgher** merchant
- **bus** large multi-passenger vehicle
- buss** a kiss
- **bussed** kissed
- bust** head and shoulders sculpture
- **but** excepting
- butt** the thick end
- **buy** to purchase
- by** near
- bye** farewell
- **buyer** one who purchases
- byre** a cow barn

C

- **cache** hidden storage
- cash** legal tender
- **cached** hidden away
- cash** converted to legal tender
- **calendar** chart of days
- calender** paper press
- **call** to summon
- caul** amnionic membrane
- col** a mountain pass
- **caller** one who calls
- collar** my cat has collar ID

▪ can't	contraction of "can not"
cant	a bevel
▪ cannon	big gun
canon	body of law
▪ canter	a moderate gallop
cantor	singer
▪ canvas	rough cloth
canvass	to examine thoroughly
▪ capital	most important
capitol	center of government
▪ carat	unit of weight for precious stones, equal to 200 milligrams
caret	proofreader's insertion mark
carrot	edible orange root
karat	one 24th part of otherwise pure gold
▪ carol	Christmas song
carrel	study enclosure
▪ carpal	a bone of the carpus
carpel	a pistil
▪ cast	to throw
caste	a social class
▪ caster	one who throws
castor	beaver's smelly gland
▪ cause	generative force
caws	sounds of crows
▪ cay	a low island
key	opens locks
quay	a wharf

▪ cedar	an evergreen tree
▪ seeder	one who broadcasts seeds
▪ cede	to give
▪ seed	part of a plant from which a new one grows
▪ ceding	giving
▪ seeding	planting
▪ ceiling	top of the room
▪ sealing	to close a package or envelope
■ cell	a small room
■ sell	to exchange for money
■ cellar	under a house
■ seller	one who sells
■ censer	incense dish
■ censor	bad people who fear knowledge
■ sensor	a device which detects
■ census	numbering
■ senses	faculties
■ cent	one hundredth of a dollar
■ scent	an aroma
■ sent	dispatched
■ cents	hundredths of a dollar
■ scents	many things to smell
■ sense	detection equipment
■ cere	waxy fleshy covering at the base of the upper beak in some birds

sear	to scorch
seer	a prophet
sere	natural succession of plant or animal communities
■ cereal	grains
serial	numbers in sequence
■ Ceres	Roman Goddess of agriculture
series	a sequence of things
■ cession	giving up
session	a group sitting
■ chalk	calcareous earthy substance
chock	wedge to keep wheels from rolling
■ chance	happenstance
chants	more than one litany
■ chard	spinach-like vegetable
charred	burnt
■ chased	quickly followed
chaste	virginal
■ check	a tic mark
Czech	from Czechoslovakia
■ chews	masticating
choose	to select
■ Chile	a South American country
chili	dried pod of red pepper
chilly	uncomfortably cool
■ choir	church singers
quire	the twentieth part of a ream of paper
■ choler	yellow bile

collar	around your neck
■ choral	by a chorus
coral	marine polyp skeleton
■ chorale	a choir
corral	a pen for horses
■ chord	three tones in harmony
cord	very light rope
cored	divested of its central part
■ chute	inclined trough
shoot	to project an object
■ cite	to refer to
sight	vision
site	a location
■ cited	referenced
sighted	visually identified
sited	located
■ cites	past tense of cite
sights	tourist rationale
sites	more than one location
■ clack	a chattering sound
claque	a group hired to applaud, sycophants
■ Claus	fat, jolly guy with presents
clause	contractual unit
claws	big fingernails
■ clew	sheet cringle on a sail
clue	a hint

■ click	ticking noise
■ clique	exclusive group
■ climb	ascending
■ clime	climate
■ close	to shut
■ clothes	garments
■ coal	black mineral
■ cole	plants in the crucifer family
■ coaled	supplied with coal
■ cold	not supplied with coal
■ coarse	rough
■ course	path of travel
■ coat	wear it for warmth
■ cote	small animal shed
■ coax	persuade
■ coke	more than one soft drink
■ cocks	more than one male bird
■ cox	a coxswain
■ Cox	a variety of eating apple
■ coddling	tenderly treating
■ codling	small, unripe apple
■ coffer	a strongbox; decorative, sunken ceiling panels
■ cougher	one who coughs
■ coin	money
■ quoin	corner stone
■ colonel	military officer

kernel	seed
■ complacence complaisance	self-satisfaction willingness to please
■ complacent complaisant	self-satisfied willing to please
■ complement compliment	allotment encomium
■ conch conk	marine mollusk blow to the head
■ coo coup	a soft murmuring sound a successful stroke
■ copes copse	gets along with adversity a stand of trees
■ copped copt	swiped a native Egyptian to a Roman
■ cops copse	police officers a small wood
■ core corps	inner part body
■ cosign cosine	to sign in addition sine of the complement
■ council counsel	group of leaders advisor
■ craft kraft	a manual occupation a strong paper made from wood pulp
■ crater krater	impact hole ancient Greek jar

■ Crays	more than one supercomputer
craze	sensation needed to buy more than one supercomputer
■ creak	to squeak
creek	small stream
■ crewed	served by a crew
crude	coarse
■ crewel	embroidery yarn
cruel	merciless
■ crews	more than one crew
cruise	a sea journey
■ cue	a signal
Kew	home of the famous English gardens
queue	a waiting line (another famous English-ism)
■ currant	small berry
current	of the present
■ curser	one who swears
cursor	on-screen positional indicator
■ cygnet	a young swan
signet	an authenticating seal
■ cymbal	percussive brass dish
symbol	a representation

D

■ dam	holds back water
damn	a curse
■ dammed	prevented from flowing
damned	cursed

■	darn	to mend
	darne	a fish steak
■	days	more than one day
	daze	to bewilder
■	dear	beloved
	deer	Bambi
■	dew	morning condensation
	do	to perform
	due	payable
■	die	to become dead
	dye	coloring agent
■	died	passed away
	dyed	colored
■	dies	passing away
	dyes	colors
■	dine	to eat
	dyne	unit of energy
■	dire	desperate
	dye	one who dyes
■	disc	a phonograph record
	disk	a round, plate-shaped object
■	discreet	confidential
	discrete	individual
■	discussed	talked about
	disgust	sickening
■	do	first note of diatonic scale

doe	a female deer
dough	uncooked bread
■ doc	a physician
dock	where a boat is kept
■ does	several female deer
doughs	several uncooked breads
doze	to nap
■ done	completed
dun	demand money
■ dos	opposite of don'ts
dues	membership payments
■ draft	a preliminary written version
draught	a gust of wind; depth of water needed to float a ship
■ dual	two things
duel	a fight between two over honor

E

■ e'er,	see: air
earl	British nobleman
URL	Internet address
■ earn	to come to deserve
urn	a jar
■ elicit	to draw out
illicit	unlawful
■ elude	to escape from
illude	to deceive
■ epic	a narrative poem or story

epoch	a noteworthy period in history
■ eunuchs	men unable to serve all of humanity
Unix	operating system unable to serve all of humanity
■ ewe	female sheep
yew	a type of tree
you	the second person
■ ewes	more than one female sheep
use	to apply
yews	more than one yew tree
■ eyelet	small hole for laces
islet	small island

F

■ facts	objective things
fax	obsolete, but widespread, image transmission technology
■ fain	willing
feign	pretend to be affected
■ faint	pass out
feint	a weak, misdirected attack to confuse the enemy
■ fair	even-handed
fare	payment
■ fairing	streamlining
faring	the state of progress
■ fairy	imaginary magic person
ferry	river-crossing boat

■ faker	a deceiver
■ fakir	a Hindu ascetic
■ farrow	a litter of pigs
■ pharoah	Egyptian king
■ faux	fake
■ foe	enemy
■ fay	a fairy
■ Faye	a woman's name
■ fey	strange and otherworldly
■ fays	more than one fairy
■ faze	to disconcert
■ faze	to stun
■ phase	a part of the sequence
■ fazed	stunned
■ phased	done in sequential parts
■ feat	an accomplishment
■ feet	look down
■ ferrate	a salt containing iron and oxygen
■ ferret	a domesticated polecat
■ feted	celebrated
■ fetid	stinking
■ few	not many
■ phew	expression of relief
■ file	a folder for holding papers
■ phial	a small glass bottle
■ fills	plural of fill

fil	one one-thousandth of an Iraqi dinar
■ filter philter	keep the bad stuff from passing through a love potion
■ find fin	to locate to have to pay a parking ticket
■ finish Finnish	to complete from Finland
■ fir fur furr	evergreen tree animal hair to separate with strips of wood
■ fisher fissure	one who fishes a crack
■ flair flare	verve to spread
■ flea flee	parasitic insect to run away
■ flecks flex	many tiny specks to bend
■ flew flu flue	past tense of fly short for influenza chimney pipe
■ Flo floe flow	a girl's name sheet of floating ice to glide along
■ flocks phlox	more than one group of birds a scented plant
■ floes flows	sheets of floating ice glides along

■ floor	what one walks on
■ fluor	something that glows
■ flour	powdered grain
■ flower	a bloom
■ for	in place of
■ fore	in front
■ four	number after three
■ forego	to precede
■ forgo	to abstain from
■ foreword	introduction to a book
■ forward	the facing direction
■ fort	a fortification
■ forte	a person's strong point
■ forth	a direction
■ fourth	following the third
■ foul	grossly offensive to the senses
■ fowl	domestic hen or rooster
■ frees	releasing
■ freeze	very cold
■ frieze	a wall decoration
■ friar	a monk
■ fryer	small chicken

G

■ gaff	a barbed spear
■ gaffe	a mistake

■	gage gauge	a pledge or security deposit instrument for measuring
■	gait gate	a manner of walking or running fence door
■	gaited gated	describing a walking horse having a gate
■	galley gally	ship's kitchen to frighten or terrify
■	gallop galop	horse's fastest gait a round dance
■	gays gaze	a frisky gathering a languid look
■	gene jean	a chromosome cotton twill
■	gild gilled guild	to coat with gold having gills a craft society
■	gilt guilt	gold-plated culpable
■	gin jinn	alcoholic beverage plural of jinni, a Muslim spirit or demon
■	gnawed nod	chewed head tilting
■	gneiss nice	coarse-grained metamorphic rock of feldspar, quartz and mica pleasant
■	gnu	African antelope

knew	past tense of know
new	not old
■ gnus	several antelope
news	timely information
■ gored	pierced by an animal's horns
gourd	fleshy fruit with hard skin
■ gorilla	large ape
guerrilla	irregular soldier
■ grade	a slope
grayed	turned gray
■ graft	to attach
graphed	plotted
■ grate	a lattice
great	extremely good
■ grays	more than one shade of black
graze	to eat grass while wandering
■ grease	lubricant
Greece	Mediterranean country
■ greave	leg armor
grieve	to mourn
■ greaves	more than one greave
grieves	to mourn
■ grill	to sear cook
grille	an iron gate or door
■ groan	reaction to hearing a pun
grown	has gotten larger
■ guessed	past tense of guess
guest	a visitor

- **guide** one who shows the way
- guyed** secured with a rope or wire
- **guise** appearance
- guys** Garrison Keillor's obsession
- **gunnel** small, eel-shaped marine fish; butterfish
- gunwale** upper part of sides of a boat
- **gym** sports room
- Jim** nickname for James

H

- **hail** frozen rain
- hale** robust health
- **hair** grows from your head
- hare** rabbit
- **hairy** having much hair
- Harry** a man's name
- harry** to harass or hunt
- **hall** a large room
- haul** to carry
- **halve** break in two
- have** to hold in possession
- **halves** more than one half
- haves** those who possess
- **hammock** rope bed
- hummock** low, rounded hill
- **hangar** garage for airplanes

hanger	from which things hang
■ Harold	a man's name
herald	a horn blower
■ hart	a stag
heart	blood pump
■ haut	high, as in "haut couture"
ho	an expression of admiration or surprise
hoe	garden tool
■ hay	grass
hey	a shout
■ hays	more than one type of hay
haze	atmospheric obscuration due to water or dust
■ he'd	contraction of "he would"
heed	to pay attention
■ he'll	contraction of "he will"
heal	to make well
■ he'll	contraction of "he will"
hill	smaller than a mountain
■ heal	to cure of disease
heel	hind part of foot
■ hear	to listen
here	at this location
■ heard	listened to
herd	a group of ruminants
■ heigh	an exclamation
hi	a greeting
hie	to go quickly
high	way up

■	heroin	narcotic
	heroine	female hero
■	hew	to chop
	hue	a color
	Hugh	a man's name
■	hide	animal skin
	hied	hurried
■	higher	farther up
	hire	to employ
■	him	pronoun
	hymn	religious song
■	hoar	a white frost
	whore	a prostitute
■	hoard	a great stash
	horde	a great many people
	whored	prostituted
■	hoarse	rough voice
	horse	equine
■	hoes	more than one garden weeding tool
	hose	tube for watering garden weeds
■	hold	to grip
	holed	full of holes
■	hole	round opening
	whole	entirety
■	holey	perforated
	holy	with religious significance
	wholly	completely
■	hostel	inexpensive lodging for travelers

hostile

unfriendly

■ **hour**
our

sixty minutes
possessed by us

■ **hours**
ours

time measurement
belonging to us

■ **humerus**
humorous

funny bone
funny

I

■ **I'll,**
idle
idol
idyl

see: aisle
not working
object of worship
paradise

■ **in**
inn

expressing inclusion
hotel

■ **inc**
ink

short for incorporated
writing fluid

■ **incite**
insight

to provoke
understanding

■ **innocence**
innocents

a state without guilt
more than one innocent

■ **inns**
ins

hotels
those on the inside

■ **it's**
its

contraction of "it is"
possessive pronoun

J

- **jam** to smash together
- **jamb** side post of a doorway
- **jewel** precious stone
- **joule** unit of energy measure
- **juggler** one who juggles
- **jugular** artery to head

K

- **knap** crest of a hill; break with a hammer
- **nap** a short sleep
- **knead** working bread dough
- **need** must have
- **knickers** woman's underwear
- **nickers** those who nick
- **knight** chivalrous man
- **night** darkness
- **knit** interlocking loops of yarn
- **nit** louse egg
- **knits** verb form of knit
- **nits** louse eggs
- **knob** handle
- **nob** rich person
- **knock** to rap
- **nock** a notch in an arrow

■ knot	fastening in cord
naught	nothing
not	negation
■ know	to possess knowledge
no	negation
■ knows	"Only the shadow knows..."
noes	"The noes have it..."
nose	"Plain as the nose on your face..."

L

■ lacks	does not have
lax	loose discipline
■ lain	past tense of lay
lane	narrow road
■ lam	headlong flight
lamb	baby sheep
■ lay	to recline
lei	a flower necklace
■ lays	to recline
laze	to recline with extreme prejudice
leis	several flower necklaces
■ lea	a meadow
lee	downwind
li	about one-third of a mile in China
■ leach	washing action
leech	sucking parasite
■ lead	heavy metal
led	guided

■ leak leek	accidental escape of liquid variety of onion
■ lean lien	angle of repose a claim on property
■ leas lees	more than one meadow the dregs
■ leased least	rented the minimum
■ lends lens	allows to borrow convex glass
■ lessen lesson	to reduce a segment of learning
■ liar lyre	tells falsehoods stringed instrument
■ lichen liken	a fungus among us to compare
■ lie lye	an untruth a caustic
■ lieu loo Lou	instead British toilet short for Louis
■ lightening lightning	removing weight or darkness static electricity from the sky
■ limb limn	tree branch delineate
■ limbs limns	arms or legs to illuminate, as in a manuscript

■ links	pieces of chain
lynx	feral cat
■ literal	taking words in their primary sense
littoral	having to do with the shore
■ lo	interjection
low	not high
■ load	cargo
lode	mineral vein
■ load	what is carried
lowed	a cow mooed
■ loan	allow to borrow
lone	by itself
■ loch	a lake
lock	a security device
■ lochs	more than one lake
locks	more than one security device
lox	salmon jerky
■ loon	a water fowl
lune	a crescent shape
■ loop	a circular pattern
loupe	a jeweler's monocular magnifier
■ loos	several British toilets
lose	fail to win
■ loot	ill-gotten gains
lute	stringed instrument
■ lumbar	lower back
lumber	dimensional wood

M

■	mach	speed of sound
	mock	parody
■	made	accomplished
	maid	young woman
■	mail	postal delivery
	male	masculine person
■	main	primary
	mane	back hair
■	maize	corn
	maze	puzzle
■	mall	hallway
	maul	shred
	moll	gangster's girlfriend
■	manner	method
	manor	lord's house
■	marc	coarse brandy
	mark	a sign
	marque	a license to privateer; a brand
■	marquee	a rooflike projection over a theatre entrance
	marquis	a nobleman ranking between a duke and a count
■	marry	to join in matrimony
	merry	happy
■	marshal	to gather
	martial	warlike
■	massed	grouped together
	mast	sail pole

■ Mays	several spring months
maze	a labyrinth
■ me	myself
mi	musical note
■ mean	average
mein	manner
■ meat	animal flesh
meet	to connect
mete	a boundary
■ medal	an award
meddle	to interfere
■ men's	owned by males
mends	to repair
■ metal	ductile element
mettle	moxie
■ mewl	to whimper
mule	offspring of female horse and male donkey
■ mews	stables
muse	creative inspiration
■ might	possible
mite	tiny creature
■ mince	chop finely
mints	aromatic candies
■ mind	thinking unit
mined	looked for ore
■ miner	one who digs
minor	small

■ missal	hymn book
■ missile	projectile
■ missed	not hit
■ mist	fog
■ misses	young ladies
■ Mrs.	married lady
■ moan	to groan
■ mown	the lawn is freshly cut
■ moat	water around a castle
■ mote	a speck
■ mode	condition
■ mowed	a lawn in a well-trimmed condition
■ moiré	optical illusion
■ moray	eel
■ mood	emotional state
■ mooed	what the loquacious cow did
■ moor	swampy coastland; to anchor
■ more	additional
■ moose	a large elk
■ mousse	dessert of whipped cream and eggs
■ moral	a social imperative
■ morel	a mushroom
■ morn	AM
■ mourn	remember the dead
■ morning	AM
■ mourning	remembering the dead
■ muscle	fibrous, contracting tissue
■ mussel	a bivalve mollusc

■ muscles	more than one muscle
mussels	more than one mussel
■ mussed	made messy
must	required
■ mustard	spicy yellow sauce
mustered	assembled for roll call

N

■ naval	pertaining to ships and the sea
navel	pertaining to the belly button
■ nay	no
neigh	a horse's cry
■ nays	votes against
neighs	a horse vocalizes
■ neap	the lowest tide
neep	a turnip
■ none	not one
nun	woman of God

O

■ oar	boat propulsion system
or	boolean deathtrap
ore	mineral-laden dirt
■ oh	interjection
owe	to be indebted
■ ohs	more than one letter "O"
owes	in debt

- **one** singularity
- won** victorious
- **oohs** as in "oohs and ahs"
- ooze** slime
- **ordinance** a decree
- ordnance** artillery
- **overdo** carried to excess
- overdue** past time for payment

P

- **paced** measured by footsteps
 - paste** thick glue
 - **packed** placed in a container
 - pact** agreement
 - **pail** bucket
 - pale** light colored
 - **pain** it hurts
 - pane** a single panel of glass
-
- **pair** a set of two
 - pare** cutting down
 - pear** bottom-heavy fruit
 - **palate** taste
 - pallet** a platform for transporting goods; bed
 - pallette** a selection of paint
 - **pall** to become wearisome

Paul	barefoot Beatle
pawl	locks a ratchet
■ passed	approved; moved on
past	before now
■ patience	being willing to wait
patients	being willing to wait
■ pause	to hesitate
paws	cat transportation
■ pea	round, green legume
pee	piss
■ peace	what hippies want
piece	what hippies want
■ peak	mountain top
peek	secret look
pique	ruffled pride
■ peal	ringing sound
peel	fruit wrapping
■ pealed	rang with sound
peeled	ready to eat
■ pearl	round, luminescent gem from an oyster
purl	to edge with a chain of small loops
■ pearl	something of value made from an irritant
Perl	something of value made from an irritant
■ pedal	foot control
peddle	to sell
■ peer	an equal (a captain at sea has no peer)
pier	wharf (a captain at sea has no pier)

■ pencil pensil	writing implement thin, swallowtail flag
■ per purr	for each endearing cat hum
■ pi pie	3.1416 good eating
■ picnic pyknic	outdoor meal physiological type with thick neck, large abdomen and short limbs
■ pieced piste	assembled from pieces a ski run of compacted snow
■ pincer pincher pinscher	claw-like gripping action one who pinches terrier
■ pistil pistol	seed-bearing organ of a flower hand gun
■ place plaice	a location a flounder
■ plain plane	not fancy a surface
■ plait plate	braid a dish
■ planar planer	flat one who planes
■ pleas please	crys for help good manners

■ pleural plural	related to lungs more than one
■ plum plumb	purple fruit straight up and down
■ polar poler	relating to the North or South poles one who uses a pole
■ Pole pole poll	a person from Poland big stick a voting
■ poled polled	a pole was used lacking horns
■ pone pony	the dealer's opponent in two-handed card games a small horse
■ poor pore pour	no money careful study; microscopic hole to flow freely
■ popery potpourri	a disparaging term for Catholics a miscellaneous collection
■ praise prays preys	to commend worships God hunts
■ pray prey	worship God hunt
■ precedence precedents presidents	priority established course of action commanders-in-chief
■ presence presents	the state of being present what Santa brings

■ pride	ego
pryed	opened
■ pries	wedging open
prize	the reward
■ prince	son of the King
prints	impressions
■ principal	head of school
principle	causative force
■ profit	money earned
prophet	seer
■ pros	multiple experts
prose	ordinary language
■ psi	twenty-third letter of Greek alphabet
sigh	sad and weary breath
xi	fourteenth letter of Greek alphabet

Q

■ quarts	several fourths-of-gallons
quartz	crystalline rock
■ quince	small, round fruit
quints	multiple quintuplets

R

■ rabbet	a groove cut in a board
rabbit	small mammal
■ rack	shelf

wrack	wreckage
■ racket	illegal moneymaking scheme
racquet	woven bat for tennis
■ rain	precipitation
reign	sovereign rule
rein	horse's steering wheel
■ raise	elevate
rays	thin beams of light
raze	to tear down completely
■ rap	a sharp knock
wrap	to encase in cloth
■ rapped	knocked sharply
rapt	spellbound
wrapped	encased in cloth
■ ray	arrow of light
re	musical note
■ read	having knowledge from reading
red	a primary color
■ read	to get the meaning by looking
rede	advice
reed	tall, thin water plant
■ reading	what you are doing now
reeding	a small semicylindrical moulding or ornamentation
■ reads	gets the meaning by looking
reeds	more than one aquatic plant
■ real	authentic
reel	armature for winding

■ recede	to move backward
reseed	to plant again
■ reck	to care
wreck	a ruin
■ reek	smells bad
wreak	to inflict
■ resinate	to impregnate with resin
resonate	sympathetic vibration
■ resisters	protesters
resistors	electrical restrictors
■ rest	stop working
wrest	take away
■ retch	call Ralph on the porcelain telephone
wretch	a ragamuffin
■ review	a general survey or assessment
revue	a series of theatrical sketches or songs
■ rheum	watery discharge of mucous
room	partitioned space
■ rheumy	having a watery discharge of mucous
roomie	colloquialism for "roommate"
roomy	lots of space
■ rho	seventeenth letter of Greek alphabet
roe	fish eggs
row	aisle; pull an oar
■ rhumb	a constant compass direction
rum	liquor distilled from sugar cane

■ rhyme rime	a verse with regular recurrence of sounds frost
■ rigger rigor	one who rigs discipline
■ right rite wright write	correct ritual a maker to inscribe
■ ring wring	circle around your finger twisting
■ rise ryes	to stand up varieties of grain
■ road rode rowed	a broad trail past tense of ride to propel a boat by oars
■ roam Rome	to wander Italian capital
■ roil royal	to make turbid worthy of a king or queen
■ role roll	part to play rotate
■ rood rude	a cross coarse
■ roomer rumor	a tenant gossip
■ root route	subterranean part of a plant path of travel

■ rose	pretty flower
rows	linear arrangement
■ rot	decay
wrought	made
■ rote	by memory
wrote	has written
■ rough	coarse
ruff	pleated collar
■ rout	to force out
route	path of travel
■ roux	cooked butter and flour
rue	regret
■ rude	impolite
rued	regretted
■ rye	grain
wry	twisted

S

■ sachet	a small bag containing perfumed powder
sashay	to strut or flounce
■ sacks	bags
sax	short for saxophone
■ sail	wind powered water travel
sale	the act of selling
■ sane	mentally normal
seine	fishing net

■ saner	more mentally normal than others
■ seiner	one who fishes with a net
■ saver	one who saves
■ savor	to relish a taste
■ sawed	cut timber
■ sod	turf
■ scene	visual location
■ seen	past tense of saw
■ scull	rowing motion
■ skull	head bone
■ sea	ocean
■ see	to look
■ seal	to close
■ seel	to close someone's eyes
■ seam	row of stitches
■ seem	appears
■ seamen	sailors
■ semen	male discharge
■ seams	more than one rows of stitching
■ seems	it appears to be
■ sear	scorched
■ seer	a person who sees
■ seas	oceans
■ sees	looks
■ seize	to grab
■ sects	religious factions
■ sex	if you have to ask, you're too young
■ seek	to look for

Sikh	Hindu religious sect
■ serf	slave
surf	breaking waves
■ serge	strong twilled fabric
surge	forceful push
■ sew	needle and thread
so	in the manner shown
sol	musical note
sow	broadcasting seeds
■ sewer	one who sews
sower	one who sows
■ sewer	waste drain
suer	one who sues
■ shake	vibrate
sheik	Arab prince
■ shall	is allowed
shell	aquatic exoskeleton
■ she'll	contraction of "she will"
shill	a decoy
■ shear	to cut or wrench
sheer	thin; abrupt turn
■ shears	cuts or wrenches; scissors
sheers	abruptly turns
■ sheave	pulley
shiv	knife
■ shoe	footwear
shoo	"go away"

■ shoes	more than one shoe
shoos	sends away
■ sic	to set upon
sick	ill
■ sics	sets upon
six	whole number
■ side	lateral
sighed	breathed sorrowfully
■ sighs	multiple sad and weary breaths
size	magnitude
■ sign	displayed board bearing information
sine	reciprocal of the cosecant
■ sink	to submerge
synch	together in time
■ Sioux	tribe of native Americans
sou	French coin worth five centimes
sough	soft sound
sue	bring civil action
■ slay	kill
sleigh	snow carriage
■ sleight	cunning skill
slight	not much
■ slew	past tense of slay
slough	bog
slue	to swing around
■ sloe	blackthorn berries
slow	not fast
■ soar	fly

sore	hurt
■ soared	to have sailed through the air
sword	long fighting blade
■ solace	comfort
soulless	lacking a soul
■ sole	only
soul	immortal part of a person
■ some	a few
sum	result of addition
■ son	male child
sun	star
■ sonny	diminutive for male child
sunny	lit by the sun
■ soot	black residue of burning
suit	clothes
■ sordid	squalid
sorted	arranged
■ spade	shovel
spayed	to sterilize a female animal
■ spoor	trail of an animal
spore	single cell reproductive body
■ staid	reserved
stayed	remained
■ stair	a step
stare	look intently
■ stake	wooden pole
steak	slice of meat

■ statice	an astringent herb
status	position with regard to law
■ stationary	not moving
stationery	writing paper
■ steal	take unlawfully
steel	iron alloy
■ step	a measure taken
steppe	a level, grassy, unforested plain
■ stile	narrow passage
style	mode
■ stoop	a small porch
stoup	a drinking cup
■ storey	the horizontal divisions of a building
story	a narrative tale
■ straight	not crooked
strait	narrow waterway
■ succor	relief
sucker	one who sucks
■ suede	split leather
swayed	curved; convinced
■ suite	ensemble
sweet	sugary
■ summary	precis
summery	like summer
■ sundae	ice cream with syrup on it
Sunday	first day of the week

T

■	tach	short for tachometer
	tack	small nail
■	tacks	small nails
	tax	governmental tithe
■	tail	spinal appendage
	tale	story
■	tailer	one who hauls in on a ship's line
	tailor	one who makes clothes
■	taper	wedge-shaped
	tapir	hoglike, Malaysian mammal
■	tare	allowance for the weight of packing materials
	tear	to rip
■	taught	past tense of teach
	taut	stretched tight
■	tea	herbal infusion
	tee	golfball prop
	ti	musical note
■	team	a group working together
	teem	to swarm
■	teaming	a fortuitous pairing
	teeming	a swarming
■	tear	eyeball lubricant
	tier	a horizontal row
■	teas	more than one herbal infusion
	tease	tantalize
	tees	more than one tee

■ tenner tenor	English slang for a ten pound note tendency
■ tense tents	nervous more than one temporary shelter
■ tern terne turn	a shorebird alloy of lead and tin rotate
■ Thai tie	from Thailand a draw
■ the thee	denoting persons already mentioned objective case of thou
■ their there they're	belonging to them a place contraction of "they are"
■ threw through	to propel by hand from end to end
■ throe throw	a spasm of pain to discharge through the air
■ throes throws	spasms of pain discharging through the air
■ throne thrown	the royal seat was hurled
■ thyme time	herb nature's way of keeping everything from happening at once
■ tic tick	twitch small noise; parasitic bug
■ ticks tics	the sounds of a clock more than one twitch

■ tide tied	periodic ebb and flow of oceans passed tense of tie
■ tighten titan	to make tighter a giant
■ timber timbre	wood for building musical quality
■ tire tyer	round, rubber things on your car one who ties
■ to too two	toward also a couple
■ toad toed towed	frog having toes pulled ahead
■ tocsin toxin	an alarm a poison
■ tocsins toxins	more than one alarm more than one poisons
■ toe tow	forepart of the foot to pull ahead
■ told tolled	what was spoken a bell was rung
■ tole toll	lacquered metalware a tax or charge
■ ton Tun	2000 lbs. a large cask
■ tongue tung	mouth muscle Chinese tree and its oil (similar to linseed)

■ toon	cartoon personality
tune	song
■ tort	a sweet cake for lawyers
torte	a sweet cake for kids
■ tough	difficult
tuff	a stratified, porous rock
■ tracked	having tracks
tract	a plot of land
■ tray	a platter
trey	three; Bill Gates' nickname
■ troop	a company of soldiers
troup	a company of actors
■ trooper	a private soldier
trouper	a staunch colleague
■ troopers	several soldiers
troupers	multiple actors
■ trussed	tied up
trust	faith

U

V

■ vain	worthless
vane	flat piece moving with the air
vein	blood vessel
■ vale	valley
veil	gauzy fabric

■ vary	to change
very	extremely
■ verses	paragraphs
versus	against
■ vial	narrow glass container
vile	despicable
viol	stringed instrument
■ vice	bad habit
vise	bench-mounted clamp

W

■ WACs	members of the Women's Army Corps
wax	candle stuff
whacks	several blows
■ wade	walk in shallow water
weighed	weight was measured
■ wail	a cry
wale	welt; corduroy ridge
whale	large oceanic mammal
■ wain	a wagon
wane	decrease
Wayne	a man's name
■ waist	between ribs and hips
waste	make ill use of
■ wait	remain in readiness
weight	an amount of heaviness
■ waive	give up rights
wave	undulating motion

■ waiver waver	contract for giving up rights rocking motion
■ Wales wales whales	Western division of UK corduroy ridges a pod of ocean mammals
■ walk wok	perambulate Chinese cooking pan
■ walks woks	moves by foot salient feature of a Chinese kitchen
■ want wont	desire accustomed
■ war wore	large scale armed conflict past tense of wear
■ ware wear where	merchandise attire a place
■ warn worn	to advise of a hazard displaying evidence of use
■ warrantee warranty	one who is protected by a guarantee a guarantee
■ warship worship	naval implement of destruction revere in a religious manner
■ wary wherry	cautious light row boat
■ way weigh whey	path or direction to measure weight watery part of milk

■ we	us
wee	very small
■ we'd	contraction of "we would"
weed	like how our flowers won't grow
■ we'll	contraction of "we will"
wheel	what we keep reinventing
■ we're	contraction of "we are"
weir	a low dam, or a fence in a river for catching fish
■ we're	contraction of "we are"
were	past tense plural of "to be"
whir	prolonged swish or buzz
■ we've	contraction of "we have"
weave	to make cloth
■ weak	not strong
week	seven days
■ weal	a skin welt
wheel	what we in Silicon Valley continually reinvent
■ weald	a rural area
wheeled	having wheels
wield	to apply or use
■ weather	meteorological conditions
wether	a castrated ram
whether	if it be the case
■ weld	to join metal by melting its edges
welled	pouring forth
■ wen	a benign skin tumor
when	at a specific time
■ wet	watery

whet	prime
■ which	selection
witch	broomstick ridin' crones
■ whig	supporter of American revolution
wig	false hairpiece
■ while	during
wile	craft
■ whiled	passing the time
wild	untamed
■ whine	annoying cry
wine	fermented grape juice
■ whined	past tense of whine
wind	what you do to a clockwork
wined	drank well of spirits
■ whirled	rapidly rotated
world	Earth
■ whirred	made a whizzing or buzzing sound
word	a speech sound
■ whit	insignificant amount
wit	cleverness; sense of humor
■ whither	to which place, point, condition, etc.?
wither	shrivel up
■ who's	contraction of "who is"
whose	belonging to whom
■ whoa	equestrian directive to stop
woe	despair
■ why	how come?
wye	the shape of the letter "Y"

■ won't	contraction of "will not"
wont	accustomed
■ wood	what trees are made of
would	will do
■ worst	least best
wurst	sausage

X

Y

■ y'all	Southern contraction of "you all"
yawl	two-masted sailboat with mizzenmast abaft the tiller
■ yack	informal talk
yak	long-haired Tibetan ox
■ yoke	oxen harness
yolk	yellow egg center
■ yokes	more than one harness
yolks	an omelet
■ yore	the past
you're	contraction of "you are"
your	belonging to you
■ you'll	contraction of "you will"
yule	Christmas

Accept, Except, and Expect

"Accept" is a verb that means to take in. The preposition "except" means other than. The verb "expect" means to depend on or await.

Adapt and Adopt

"Adapt" means to take something and make it suitable for a specific use or situation.

"Adopt" means to take something and make it one's own as is.

Adverse and Averse

The adjective "adverse" means antagonistic, opposing, harmful, or unfavorable; often it refers to things. The adjective "averse" means strongly disinclined; often it refers to people.

Advice and Advise

The noun "advice" means guidance. The verb "advise" means to recommend or counsel.

Affect and Effect

"Affect" is usually a verb meaning to influence. "Effect" is usually a noun meaning result. When used as a verb, "effect" means to cause.

Aggravate and Irritate

"Aggravate" is a verb that means to make worse. The verb "irritate" means to annoy.

All Ready and Already

The phrase "all ready" means completely prepared. "Already" is an adverb meaning previously or by this time.

All Together and Altogether

The phrase "all together" refers to people or things gathered in one place. The adverb "altogether" means entirely or wholly.

Allude and Elude

To "allude" to something means to make an indirect reference. To "elude" means to evade, escape, or avoid.

Allusion and Illusion

The noun "allusion" means an indirect reference to a person, event, or thing. "Illusion" is a noun that means false impression.

Allusive and Elusive

Something that is "allusive" contains (or is characterized by) indirect references. Someone or something that is "elusive" is hard to describe or skillful at avoiding capture.

A Lot (Much, Many)

Spell "a lot" as two words, not one. In formal writing (such as essays and exams), avoid "a lot" in favor of "much" or "many."

Altar and Alter

The noun "altar" refers to the table in churches where religious ceremonies are carried out. The verb "alter" means to change, modify, or adjust.

Ambiguous and Ambivalent

"Ambiguous" means doubtful or unclear, open to more than one interpretation.

"Ambivalent" means holding opposing attitudes or feelings toward a person, object, or idea.

Amoral and Immoral

The adjective "amoral" means lying outside the moral order or acting without regard for any particular code of morality. The adjective "immoral" means not moral--that is, violating traditionally held moral principles.

Amount and Number

Use "amount" to refer to a quantity. Use "number" to refer to people or things that can be counted.

Amuse and Bemuse

The verb "amuse" means to entertain or to appeal to an audience's sense of humor. The verb "bemuse" generally means to puzzle, distract, or bewilder.

Anxious and Eager

Although "anxious" has been used as a synonym for "eager" since the 18th century, many usage guides insist that "anxious" should be used only when its subject is worried or uneasy about the anticipated event.

Anyone and Any One

The indefinite pronoun "anyone" refers to people but not to particular individuals. "Any one" is an adjective phrase that refers to specific but unidentified things or individuals.

Appraise and Apprise

The verb "appraise" means to evaluate or set a price on something. To "apprise" is to inform or notify someone.

Are and Our

The verb "are" is a present tense form of the verb "to be." The adjective "our" is the possessive form of "we."

Assure, Ensure, and Insure

The verbs "assure," "ensure," and "insure" all mean to make certain or secure--but some distinctions are worth making.

Baited and Bated

A hook, witness, or animal is "baited" (lured, enticed, tempted). Breath is "bated" (moderated).

Beside and Besides

"Beside" is a preposition meaning next to. "Besides" is a preposition meaning except or in addition to. As a conjunctive adverb, "besides" means also.

Breath and Breathe

"Breath" is a noun. "Breathe" is a verb.

Capital and Capitol

"Capital" has multiple meanings: (1) a city that serves as the seat of government; (2) wealth in the form of money or property; (3) an asset or advantage; (4) a capital letter (the type of letter used at the beginning of a sentence). "Capitol" refers to the building in which a legislative assembly meets.

Censor and Censure

The verb "censor" means to suppress or remove something that is considered objectionable. The noun "censor" refers to a person who censors things. The verb "censure" means to find fault or condemn someone. The noun "censure" refers to a reprimand or a judgment involving condemnation.

Choose, Chose, & Chosen

"Choose" is an irregular verb, with "chose" as the past form and "chosen" as the past-participle form.

Chord and Cord

The noun "chord" is a musical term (two or more notes sounded together); "chord" also refers to an emotion or disposition. The noun "cord" refers to a rope or a bond, an insulated electrical cable, or an anatomical structure

Cite and Site

The verb "cite" means to mention or quote as an authority or example. The noun "site" means a particular place.

Climactic and Climatic

The adjective "climactic" corresponds to the noun climax: "a climactic scene." The adjective "climatic" corresponds to the noun climate: "climatic research."

Clothes and Cloths

The noun "clothes" means clothing. "Cloths" is the plural of "cloth" (fabric).

Complement and Compliment

"Complement" means "something that completes or brings to perfection." A "compliment" is an expression of praise.

Conscience & Conscious

The noun "conscience" means the sense of what is right and wrong. The adjective "conscious" means being aware or deliberate.

Continual & Continuous

"Continual" means frequently repeated (that is, going on with occasional interruptions). "Continuous" means unceasing (going on without interruption).

Council and Counsel

The noun "council" refers to a government body or an assembly of officials. The noun "counsel" means advice, guidance, or consultation. As a verb, "counsel" means to advise.

Days and Daze

"Days" is the plural form of the noun "day." The noun "daze" means a stunned or bewildered condition. As a verb, "daze" means to stun or to dazzle.

Dazed and Dazzled

"Dazed" usually means shocked or stunned (as with a heavy object). "Dazzled" means blinded with intense light or amazed by a spectacular display or performance.

Defective and Deficient

The adjective "defective" means faulty, marked by a defect. The adjective "deficient" means inadequate or insufficient, lacking an essential quality.

Desert and Dessert

A "desert" is a dry, sandy region or wasteland; the verb "desert" means to abandon. A "dessert" is a sweet dish served at the end of a meal.

Device and Devise

The noun "device" means a gadget. The verb "to devise" means to plan.

Discreet and Discrete

The adjective "discreet" means tactful or prudent self-restraint. "Discrete" means distinct or separate.

Disinterested and Uninterested

The adjective "disinterested" means impartial and without bias. "Uninterested" means indifferent or unconcerned.

Distinct and Distinctive

The adjective "distinct" means clearly defined and readily distinguishable from all others. "Distinct" also means notable or highly probable. "Distinctive" means set off by appearances or characteristic of a particular person, place, or thing.

Dual and Duel

The adjective "dual" means double or twofold. "Duel" is a noun or verb referring to a fight or struggle.

Economic and Economical

In present-day usage, the adjective "economical" generally means thrifty--marked by careful use of resources or operating with little waste. The adjective "economic" (related to the field of economics) generally refers to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Eminent and Imminent

The adjective "eminent" means prominent or outstanding. "Imminent" means impending, about to occur.

Envelop and Envelope

"Envelop" (with the accent on the second syllable) is a verb meaning cover or enclose. "Envelope" (first syllable accented) is a noun meaning container used for mailing.

Epigram, Epigraph, and Epitaph

Each of these words beginning with "epi-" (from the Greek word for "upon") has multiple definitions, but here are the most common meanings.

Eventually and Ultimately

The adverb "eventually" refers to an unspecified time in the future. "Ultimately" means in the end.

Every Day and Everyday

The adjective "everyday" (written as one word) means routine, ordinary, or commonplace. "Every day" (two words) means each day.

Explicit and Implicit

"Explicit" means clearly expressed or readily observable. "Implicit" means implied or expressed indirectly.

Farther and Further

"Farther" usually refers to physical distance. "Further" refers to an extension of time or degree.

Few (Fewer) and Little (Less)

"Few" and "fewer" refer to people or objects that can be counted. "Little" and "less" refer to a small quantity.

Flaunt and Flout

To "flaunt" means to show off. To "flout" means to defy or to show contempt for.

Flounder and Founder

The verb "flounder" means to struggle, to make clumsy efforts to move or regain one's balance. The verb "founder" means to sink or become disabled.

Foreword and Forward

The noun "foreword" refers to a preface or an introductory note, often one written by a person other than the author. "Forward" is an adjective and an adverb with several meanings related to direction.

Formally and Formerly

The adverb "formally" means in a formal way. The adverb "formerly" means at an earlier time.

Fortunate and Fortuitous

The primary meaning of "fortunate" is lucky or auspicious. The primary meaning of "fortuitous" is accidental. In recent decades, however, "fortuitous" has been used synonymously with "fortunate" and "felicitous."

Full and Fulsome

Put simply, the adjective "full" means complete or containing all that is possible, while the adjective "fulsome" means offensive or insincere.

Gourmand and Gourmet

The noun "gourmand" refers to someone who is extremely (and often excessively) fond of eating and drinking. A "gourmet" (both a noun and an adjective) is a connoisseur: someone with refined tastes in food and drink.

Grisly and Grizzly

The adjective "grisly" means horrible, fearsome, disgusting. The noun "grizzly" refers to a large brown bear. As an adjective, "grizzly" (more commonly "grizzled") means streaked with gray.

Hanged and Hung

For centuries, "hanged" and "hung" were used interchangeably as the past participle of "hang." Most contemporary usage guides insist that in formal writing "hanged," not "hung," should be used when referring to executions: convicted killers are hanged; posters are hung.

Hardy and Hearty

The adjective "hardy" means daring, courageous, and capable of surviving difficult conditions. The adjective "hearty" means showing warm and heartfelt affection or providing abundant nourishment.

Have and Of

Use "have," not "of," as an auxiliary verb. "Of" is a preposition.

Historic and Historical

Historic means important, momentous, or historically significant. Historical means relating to the past.

Hoard and Horde

The noun "hoard" refers to a supply of something that has been stored up and often hidden away. As a verb, "hoard" means to collect and store away or to keep something to oneself. The noun "horde" means a crowd, throng, or swarm.

Home and Hone

A missile "homes in" (not "hones in") on a target. Hone means "to sharpen."

Hoping & Hopping

Hoping is the present-participle form of hope ("to wish for"). Hopping is the present-participle form of hop (like a bunny).

Imply and Infer

A speaker "implies" (suggests) something; a listener "infers" (or deduces).

In and Into

A person who is "in" a room may decide to move "into" another room. "Into" suggests movement.

Incredible and Incredulous

"Incredible" means unbelievable. "Incredulous" means skeptical or expressive of disbelief.

Ingenious and Ingenuous

The adjective "ingenious" means extremely clever--marked by inventive skill and imagination. "Ingenuous" means straightforward, candid, without guile.

Intense and Intent

"Intense" means profound, deeply felt, or extreme in degree, strength, or size. "Intent" means focused or concentrated.

Its and It's

"Its" is a possessive pronoun. "It's" is a contraction of "it is."

Last and Latter

"Latter" refers to the second of two persons or things that have been mentioned. When more than two have been mentioned, use "last."

Later and Latter

Use "later" when referring to time. Use "latter" when referring to the second of two persons or things mentioned previously.

Lay and Lie

The verb "lay" means to put; it takes a direct object. The verb "lie" means to rest; it does not take a direct object.

Lead and Led

"Led" is both the past and past participle form of the verb "to lead."

Leave and Let

The verb "leave" means go away from or put in a place. "Let" means permit or allow.

Lend and Loan

In formal usage (especially in British English), "lend" is a verb and "loan" is a noun. But see the usage notes that follow.

Lessen and Lesson

The verb "lessen" means to decrease or reduce. The noun "lesson" means an instructive example, a piece of practical wisdom, or a unit of instruction.

Libel and Liable

The adjective "liable" means subject to, obligated to, or responsible for something. The noun or verb "libel" refers to a false publication that damages a person's reputation.

Lightening and Lightning

The noun "lightening" means making lighter in weight or changing to a lighter or brighter color. "Lightning" is the flash of light that accompanies thunder.

Literally and Figuratively

"Literally" means really or actually or in the strict sense of the word. Don't confuse it with "figuratively," which means in an analogous or metaphorical sense, not in the exact sense.

Loath and Loathe

"Loath" is an adjective meaning unwilling or reluctant, and it's usually followed by "to."
"Loathe" is a verb that means to dislike intensely.

Loose and Lose

The adjective "loose" means not tight. The verb "lose" means not to win or not to keep.

Many and Much

"Many" refers to people or objects that can be counted. "Much" refers to a large quantity.

Marital and Martial

The adjective "marital" refers to marriage. The adjective "martial" refers to battle, war, or military life.

Maybe and May Be

"Maybe" is an adverb meaning perhaps. "May be" is a verb phrase showing possibility.

Media and Medium

Strictly speaking, "media" is the plural of "medium" and should be used with a plural verb.

Militate and Mitigate

"Militate" is an intransitive verb that means to counteract, to have an effect against something. "Mitigate" is a transitive verb that means to mollify or alleviate--to make less severe or painful.

Miner and Minor

The noun "miner" refers to a person who works in a mine. The noun "minor" refers to someone who is under legal age or to a secondary area of academic study. As an adjective, "minor" means lesser or smaller.

Moot and Mute

The adjective "moot" refers to something that is debatable or of no practical importance. The adjective "mute" means unspoken or unable to speak.

Moral and Morale

The adjective "moral" (with the accent on the first syllable) means ethical or virtuous. As a noun "moral" refers to the lesson or principle taught by a story or event. The noun "morale" (second syllable accented) means spirit or attitude.

Noisome and Noisy

The adjective *noisome* means obnoxious, harmful, offensive to the senses (especially the sense of smell). It doesn't mean making noise (noisy).

Obsolescent and Obsolete

The adjective "obsolescent" refers to the process of passing out of use or usefulness--becoming obsolete. The adjective "obsolete" means no longer in use--outmoded in design, style, or construction.

Official and Officious

As an adjective, "official" means authorized, authoritative, or characteristic of an office. The adjective "officious" usually means meddlesome--excessively eager to offer help or advice.

Pair, Pare, and Pear

The verb "pare" means to remove, reduce, or cut back. The noun "pair" means a couple. The noun "pear" refers to the fruit.

Passed and Past

"Passed" is both the past and past-participle form of the verb "pass." "Past" is a noun (meaning a previous time), an adjective (meaning ago), and a preposition (meaning beyond).

Peace and Piece

The noun "peace" means contentment or the absence of war. A "piece" is a unit or a portion.

Perquisite and Prerequisite

A "perquisite" (sometimes informally shortened to "perk") is a benefit (beyond pay) that is associated with a particular job. A "prerequisite" is something required as a prior condition of something else.

Persecute and Prosecute

To "persecute" is to oppress, harass, or bother. To "prosecute" is to enforce by legal action.

Personal and Personnel

The adjective "personal" (with the accent on the first syllable) means private or individual. The noun "personnel" (accent on the last syllable) refers to the people employed in an organization, business, or service.

Perspective and Prospective

The noun "perspective" refers to a view or outlook. The adjective "prospective" means likely or expected to happen or become.

Perverse and Perverted

The adjective "perverse" generally means stubborn, cranky, wrong-headed, or incorrect. "Perverted" means twisted, distorted, corrupt.

Pore and Pour

The verb "pore" means to read or study carefully. To "pour" is to dispense a drink.

Precede and Proceed

"Precede" means to come before. "Proceed" means to go forward.

Premier and Premiere

As an adjective, "premier" means first in rank or importance. The noun "premier" refers to a prime minister, or the head of a state, province, or territory. The noun "premiere" refers to the first performance (of a play, for example). "Premiere" is similarly used as a verb, meaning to give a first public performance.

Prescribe and Proscribe

The verb "prescribe" means to establish, direct, or lay down as a rule. The verb "proscribe" means to ban, forbid, or condemn.

Principal and Principle

As a noun, "principal" commonly means administrator or sum of money. As an adjective, "principal" means most important. The noun "principle" means basic truth or rule.

Quell and Quench

The verb "quell" means to suppress, pacify, or put down with force. The verb "quench" means to satisfy, extinguish, or cool down.

Quiet, Quit, and Quite

"Quiet" means silence. "Quit" means to leave. "Quite" means very or actually.

Quotation and Quote

In formal English, "quotation" is a noun, "quote" a verb.

Rack and Wrack

As verbs, "rack" means to torture or cause great suffering, while "wrack" means to wreck or cause the ruin of something. The noun "rack" means a frame, an instrument of torture, or a state of intense anguish. The noun "wrack" means destruction or wreckage.

Rain, Reign, and Rein

All three of these words can be used as both nouns and verbs. "Rain" refers to precipitation (falling water). "Reign" refers to a period or demonstration of sovereign power. "Rein" refers to restraint or the means by which power is exercised.

Raise and Rise

"Raise" is (usually) a transitive verb that means lift, heighten, or promote. "Rise" is an intransitive verb that means to get up or increase.

Rational and Rationale

The adjective "rational" means having or exercising the ability to reason. The noun "rationale" refers to an explanation or basic reason.

Ravage and Ravish

The verb "ravage" means to ruin, devastate, or destroy. The noun "ravage" (often in the plural) means grievous damage or destruction. The verb "ravish" means to rape, carry away by force, or overwhelm with emotion.

Recourse and Resource

"Recourse" is a person or thing that one turns or applies to for help. "Resource" is a supply that can be drawn on when needed.

Regretful and Regrettable

The adjective "regretful" refers to people and means full of regret. "Regrettable" applies to incidents or situations and means causing or deserving regret.

Respectively and Respectfully

"Respectively" means one by one in the order designated or mentioned. "Respectfully" means with respect.

Review and Revue

The noun "revue" refers to a musical or theatrical production. As both a noun and a verb, "review" has the sense of inspecting, surveying, or critically evaluating.

Riffle and Rifle

The verb "riffle" means to shuffle (playing cards) or to flick or leaf through something (such as the pages of a book or magazine). The verb "rifle" means to rob, ransack, or search with the intention of stealing.

Role and Roll

A "role" is a character or part played by a performer. "Roll" has many senses, including a portion of bread and a list of names of persons belonging to a group.

Sensual and Sensuous

The adjective "sensual" means affecting or gratifying the physical senses. "Sensuous" means pleasing to the senses, especially those involved in aesthetic pleasure, as of art or music.

Serve and Service

In general practice, people are "served," things are "serviced."

Set and Sit

The transitive verb "set" means to put or to place; it takes a direct object, and its principal forms are "set," "set," and "set." The intransitive verb "sit" means to be seated; it does not take a direct object, and its principal forms are "sit," "sat," and "sat."

Shall and Will

In contemporary American English, the auxiliary verb "shall" is rarely used. In British English, "shall" and "will" are often used interchangeably with no difference of meaning in most circumstances. Internationally, "will" is now the standard choice for expressing future plans and expectations.

Shear and Sheer

The verb "shear" means to cut or clip. As a noun, "shear" refers to the act, process, or fact of cutting or clipping. The adjective "sheer" means fine, transparent, or complete. As an adverb, "sheer" means completely or altogether.

Should and Would

Use "should" to express an obligation. Use "would" to express a customary action.

Simple and Simplistic

The adjective "simple" means plain, ordinary, uncomplicated. The adjective "simplistic" is a pejorative word meaning overly simplified--characterized by extreme and often misleading simplicity.

Sometime, Some time, and Sometimes

"Sometime" means at an indefinite or unstated time in the future. "Some time" means a period of time. "Sometimes" means occasionally, now and then.

Stationary and Stationery

The adjective "stationary" means remaining in one place. The noun "stationery" means writing materials.

Statue and Statute

A "statue" is a carved or molded figure. A "statute" is a rule or law.

Tail and Tale

Both a noun and a verb, "tail" has several meanings, including the rear part of an animal or vehicle. The noun "tale" refers to a report or story.

Temerity and Timidity

The noun "temerity" means daring or recklessness. In contrast, the noun "timidity" means fearfulness.

Than and Then

Use "than" to make a comparison. Use "then" when referring to time.

Their, There, and They're

"Their" is the possessive form of "they." "There" is an adverb (meaning at that place) and a pronoun used to start a sentence. "They're" is a contraction of "they are."

To and Too

The preposition "to" refers to a place, direction, or position. "To" is also used before the verb in an infinitive. The adverb "too" means also or excessively.

Troop and Troupe

As a noun, "troop" refers to a group of soldiers or a collection of people or things. As a verb, "troop" means to move or spend time together. The noun or verb "troupe" refers specifically to a group of theatrical performers.

Vain, Vane, and Vein

The adjective "vain" means conceited or fruitless. The noun "vane" refers to a device for showing wind direction. The noun "vein" refers to a blood vessel, a streak, or a crack.

Vary and Very

The verb "vary" means to differ, change, or to give variety to something. The adverb "very" means truly, absolutely, or extremely.

Veracious and Voracious

The adjective "veracious" means honest or truthful. The adjective "voracious" means greedy or extremely hungry.

Waist and Waste

The noun "waist" refers to the narrow part of the body between the ribs and hips. The verb "waste" means to use or spend thoughtlessly. As a noun, "waste" means unwanted material or barren land.

Were, We're, and Where

"Were" is a past form of the verb "to be." "We're" is a contraction of "we are." "Where" refers to a place.

Which and Who

The pronoun "who" refers to people; "which" refers to things.

Who and Whom

Use "who" when a sentence requires a subject pronoun (equivalent to "he" or "she"). In formal English, use "whom" when a sentence requires an object pronoun (equivalent to "him" or "her").

Whoever and Whomever

In the manner of "who" and "whom," use "whoever" when a sentence requires a subject pronoun; use "whom" when a sentence requires an object pronoun.

Whose and Who's

"Whose" is the possessive form of "who." "Who's" is the contraction of "who is."

Young and Youthful

Although these two adjectives have similar meanings, "young" tends to be a neutral statement of fact (in an early stage of life) while "youthful" often suggests the positive qualities of youth (such as good health, freshness, and vitality) and almost always refers to people, not things.

Your and You're

"Your" is the possessive form of "you." "You're" is the contraction of "you are."